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Some Notes on <sup>c</sup>  
the  
Ancestors of  
Esther Snavelly  
(1803-1832)  
widow of Michael Bergtold  
and  
Wife of Jacob Tanger

by  
Frederick S. Weiser

Gettysburg, Pa.  
1957



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These genealogical notes were compiled primarily for the descendants of David Snavely Tanger (1831-1887) as a supplement to The Tanger-Metzger Genealogy, which deals with David's paternal ancestry. These data, concerned in the main with his mother's side of the house, were compiled from notes supplied by Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Heisey, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and additional research. It constitutes an attempt to bring to focus the life of each ancestor and to record, genealogically at least, something of his family. It is admittedly incomplete. Because of the several old Lancaster County families included, the collection may assist others in climbing their family trees.

Appreciation to all who rendered data is herewith expressed.

Frederick S. Weiser .

P.O.Box 121  
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania  
February 2, 1957

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Esther Snavely  
(1803-1832)

(m. 1, Michael Bergtold; 2, Jacob Tanger  
ch: Fannie Bergtold Baer, John Tanger,  
and David Snavely Tanger)

Jacob Snavely  
(1772-1853)

Veronica Hess  
(1781-1855)

John Snavely Esther Herr  
(ca. 1750-1794) (-1773)

David Hess  
(1746-1815)

Anna Keeports  
(1751-1835)

(m. 2 Elizabeth Barr,  
who m. 2 Daniel Keeports)

Michael Hess  
(1715-1760)

Barbara --  
(1721 - )

Jacob Snavely Veronica  
(-1781)

Hans Hess Magdalena  
(-1733)

Samuel Herr Anna Elizabeth  
(-1787)

Daniel Keeports Anna Gröff

THE ANCESTORS OF ESTHER SNAVELY



## Esther Snavelly

Esther Snavelly, daughter of Jacob and Veronica (Hess) Snavelly, was born on January 5, 1803, in West Mampeter Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. She married 1) Michael Bergtold (Bergthal, Bartol, etc.) on November 20, 1821, at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, Lancaster, Pa. They had one daughter, Veronica (or Frances), before he died, date and place of burial unknown. She then married 2) Jacob Tanger (February 18, 1796-July 28, 1849) on November 30, 1828, at Trinity Church. They had two sons. It seems likely that they lived in Willow Street, Lancaster County, during their marriage, later moving to Millerstown (now Millersville), where she died on July 6, 1833. She was buried in the Snavelly-Kreider family graveyard west of Willow Street, with a marker inscribed in German over her grave.

### Children of Michael and Esther (Snavelly) Bergtold

(--supplied by Mrs. Frank Beasich and Mrs. Laura B. Stubbs)  
Veronica or Fannie Bergtold, m. Jacob Baer (1806-1881)

#### 1. Adam Baer (1843-1926)

##### 1. Guy Baer

##### 2. Laura Baer (1874) m. Dr. Stubbs

##### 1. Charles Detwiler Stubbs (1899) m. Margaret Henderson

###### 1. Barbara Jean Stubbs

###### 2. Peggy Jean Stubbs

##### 2. Guy Haines Stubbs (1901) m. Minnie Breese

###### 1. Susan Stubbs

###### 2. Guy Stubbs

##### 2. Susan Baer, m. Dietrich

###### 1. Charles Dietrich

###### 2. Adam Dietrich

###### 3. Emma Dietrich, m. Beamisderfer

##### 3. Fannie Baer, m. Amos Miller

##### 4. Annie Baer, m. Hershey

###### 1. Elizabeth Hershey, m. Daniel Baer

###### x2. Ella ~~Baer~~ Hershey, m. Roland

###### 7. Adam Hershey,

##### 5. Elizabeth Baer, m. Kessler

###### 1. Stanley Kessler

##### 6. Harry B. Baer (May 28, 1856-March 19, 1937)

m. Emma Jean Hostetter (December 18, 1863-December 8, 1945) on September 18, 1895.

###### 1. Fannie Huber Baer (September 21, 1896-January 11, 1949)

###### 2. Mary Elizabeth Baer (December 24, 1898) m. Frank J. Beasich (November 25, 1910) on November 4, 1939)

###### 3. Herbert Jacob Baer (January 11, 1902) m. Laneda Duckworth, February 1, 1930.

###### 1. Herbert Jacob Baer Jr. (August 15, 1942)

### Children of Jacob and Esther (Snavelly) Tanger

(See The Tanger-Metzger Genealogy)

#### 1. John Tanger (November 9, 1829--July 30, 1848)

#### 2. David Snavelly Tanger (May 29, 1831-August 28, 1887)







### The Bergtold Family

Michael Bergtold who married Esther Snavelly was a son of Daniel Bergtold (April 25, 1868-May 20, 1831) and Catharine Krauter (October 7, 1775-April 15, 1851), married on May 19, 1795. In addition to Michael, they had Catharine (November 11, 1804-December 7, ~~1892~~ 1874) who married Daniel Fulton (January 27, 1797-August 24, 1865) and Barbara, who had a child named Catharine Greider, mentioned in Daniel Bergtold's will dated August 5, 1830. Daniel and his wife, and Daniel and Catharine (Bergtold) Fulton are buried in the Byerland Mennonite Churchyard in Lancaster County. The name is also spelled Bergthal and Bartol in varying records.

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### The Tanger Family

For complete details, see The Tanger-Metzger Genealogy (Frederick S. Weiser, Gettysburg, Pa., 1955). Jacob Tanger was a son of John and Catharine (Metzger) Tanger. John Tanger was the son of Andrew and Catharine (Lottmann) Tanger. Andrew Tanger was the son of Christoph and Anna Catharina (Stumkeller) Tanger. Anna Catharina Stumkeller was the daughter of John George Stumkeller.

Catharine Metzger was a daughter of Jacob and Susanna (Rudisill) Metzger. Susanna Rudisill was a daughter of Philip and Susanna (Beyer) Rudisill.

Catharine Lottmann was a daughter of Michael and Elizabeth Lottmann.



## The Snavely Family

Jacob Snavely, the father of Esther(Snavely Bargdolt) Tanger, was born on August 18, 1772, to John and Esther (Herr) Snavely, probably in (West) Lampeter Township on the Snavely homestead. He married Veronica Hess, born November 5, 1781, on June 17, 1800, at the First Reformed Church in Lancaster. He petitioned the Orphans Court of Lancaster County in 1797 in his father's estate and was awarded his father's land after paying certain equalizing shares to the other children (Orphans Court Docket 1797, p 92) Here he resided until May 25, 1833, when he sold the land to Jacob Kreider and moved to East Hempfield Township, where he purchased a 50-acre farm from Jacob and Susanna (Tanger) Harnish and lived out his days. Tradition locates home in Silver Spring, a village in the township.

Jacob Snavely died on November 4, 1853, and was buried in the family graveyard near Willow Street. His will provided for his wife with the income from his land and the use of his possessions; after his death, everything was to be sold, with payments to his son Michael and to the three children of his daughter Esther, with the residue divided between sons Michael and David. Veronica, his wife, died on April 4, 1853, and is buried in the family cemetery, where lie also all of their children except David and Michael.

### Children of Jacob and Veronica(Hess) Snavely:

1. Anna Snavely, May 5, 1801-February 27, 1802
2. Esther Snavely, January 5, 1803 (See above)
3. John Snavely, December 21, 1805-April 8, 1838
4. Jacob Snavely, November (16), 1807-September 16, 1815.
5. David Snavely, married Elizabeth ----, lived in East Hempfield Township.
6. Michael Snavely, May 25, 1812-November 10, 1895, married Fanny Miller (May 27, 1820-November 28, 1891) Lived East Hempfield Township. Buried Rohrerstown Mennonite Cemetery
7. Eliza Snavely, September 5, 1814-March 3, 1835, m. George Klink.
8. Abraham Snavely, August 16, 1817-July 20, 1841.
9. Fanny Snavely, April 20, 1820-May 2, 1836.
10. Henry Snavely, June (8) 1822-August 8, 1825
11. Anna Snavely, November (8), 1825-September 8, 1838.

John Snavely, father of Jacob above, was born about 1750, the son of Jacob and Fronica (---) Snavely. He married 1) Esther Herr, who died in 1773 (buried in the family cemetery under a field marker inscribed "E.S. 1773") and 2) Elizabeth Barr (February 28, 1751--January 17, 1828) on February 2, 1774, at St. James Episcopal Church, Lancaster. There is good reason to believe he lived on the Snavely estate in West





Lampeter Township which he inherited on his father's death in 1781 and where he was listed in the 1790 census (Pennsylvania, p. 135). John died intestate on April 19, 1794, and is buried in the family plot under a field marker bearing his initials and the year. Following his death, his widow married Daniel Keeperts of whom there will be more later.

Children of John and Esther (Herr) Snavely:

1. Anna Snavely, d. 1829.
2. Jacob Snavely, August 18, 1772, see above.

Children of John and Elizabeth (Barr) Snavely:

3. John Snavely, m. Esther Huber, May 18, 1802
4. Veronica Snavely, m. Samuel Buckwalter.
5. Barbara Snavely, October 5, 1779-December 25, 1854, m. May 21, 1797, John Landis, July 3, 1776-August 11, 1826.
6. Henry Snavely, June 25, 1781-December 16, 1849, m. April 29, 1809, Anna Shenk.
7. Christian Snavely, April 27, 1784-August 31, 1863, m. March 23, 1809, Veronica Herr, August 10, 1782-July 8, 1825.
8. Elizabeth Snavely, March 19, 1786-July 4, 1878, m. March 20, 1804, David Harnish, June 1, 1781-April 11, 1867. See J.E.G. Francis, The Harnish Freindschaft, 1955, for their descendants.)
9. Abraham Snavely, May 5, 1787-March 1, 1866, m. January 18, 1809, Elizabeth Buckwalter, March 9, 1789-February 5, 1865. One of their grandsons, Milton Snavely Hershey, founded the Herhsye Chocolate Company and the town of Hershey, Pennsylvania.
10. Martin Snavely, February 16, 1790-November 2, 1877, m. Anna Huber, April 4, 1795-August 12, 1837.
11. Daniel Snavely, d. 1823, m. October 13, 1813, Barbara Meyer, February 1, 1797-February 7, 1824.
12. David Snavely, March 26, 1792-May 10, 1873, m. Prudence, ---, March 12, 1800-February 12, 1873.
13. Susanna Snavely.

Jacob Snavely, father of John above, married Fronica -- and died in May, 1787. He seems to have been the immigrant ancestor for this branch of the family, although there were others of the name in Lancaster and other nearby areas very early. He purchased a 200-acre tract in (West) Lampeter Township from John Houser on September 3, 1766. His will, written in 1776, was probated May 25, 1781. The inventory of his estate indicates he owned a Bible (which is mentioned again in his son John's inventory and which probably contains vital statistics which would be of value if it came to light) and a History of the Martyrs (probably the "Martyrs' Mirror"). He was buried in the family graveyard with a field marker bearing his initials and the date over the grave. The date of his wife's death is unknown.





Children on Jacob and Veronica (---) Snavely:

1. John Snavely, above.
2. Ann Snavely, m. Melchior Brenneman
3. Veronica Snavely, m. Christian Graff, York, Pa.
4. Mary Snavely, m. John Steinman (Stoneman)

Unless the aforementioned Bible turns to light, it seems unlikely that further data will be uncovered on the Snavely ancestry.

### The Herr Family

The parents of Esther Herr who married John Snavely were Samuel and Anna Elizabeth (---) Herr of Manor Township, Lancaster County. They are buried on the David Landis farm west of Millersville, with markers which indicate that Samuel died May 30, 1787, aged 65 years, 3 months, and his wife died, no date given, aged 64 years, 7 months. According to Samuel's will (X-2-266), written January 11, 1786, originally in German, he had a 148-acre plantation there. He probably owned a grist mill in Manor Township.

Children of Samuel and Anna Elizabeth Herr:

1. Veronica Herr, October 2, 1755-March 13, 1829, m. Jacob Kauffman, July 16, 1752-June 21, 1840. See: C. F. Kauffman, A Genealogy and History of the Kauffman-Coffman Families of North America 1584-1937 (York, Pa., 1940), p. 66ff. for descendants.
2. Anna, m. Henry Hartman.
3. Esther, m. John Snavely, above.

Attempts have been made to tie the above Samuel Herr into the Herrs of Lancaster County who have been prominent in Mennonite history since the beginning of the community there. Although the Herr Record presents a genealogical reference to Samuel's ancestors, Martin Brackbill in New Light on Hans Herr has demonstrated the lack of reliability of this book for the first generations. Attempts to prove through existent records the assertions of the Herr Record concerning Samuel Herr have met with failure.



The Hesses

Veronica Hess, wife of Jacob Snavelly (1772-1853) and mother of Esther Snavelly (1803-1832) was born on November 5, 1781, probably in Conestoga Township, Lancaster County, Pa., to David and Anna (Keeports) Hess. She died April 4, 1855, and is buried with her husband in the Snavelly-Kreider graveyard near Willow Street.

David Hess, her father, was born on June 19, 1746, probably also in Conestoga Township, to Michael and Babara (---) Hess. David married Anna Keeports, daughter of Daniel and Anna (Groff) Keeports. He was listed as a male resident of Conestoga Township in 1776 and taxed there in 1780, as owner of 200 acres, 2 horses and 6 cows. He died September 25, 1815, leaving a will dated August 17, in which he identified himself as a farmer, named his children, and left household goods to his wife with certain money in security. She was born October 15, 1751, and died August 20, 1835. Both are buried in a field cemetery on the Jacob Thomas farm in Conestoga Township, on the road from Conestoga Center to Sickman's Mill.

Children of David and Anna (Keeports) Hess:

1. Daniel Hess (March 6, 1769-April 3, 1840) m. July 20, 1793, Magdalena Ament (February 24, 1772-July 13, 1849).  
Buried on the Thomas Farm.
2. Barbara Hess, m. John Derendinger.
3. Nancy Hess, m. September 4, 1793, Jacob Shoff.
4. Elizabeth Hess (December 24, 1779-September 12, 1834)  
m. February 18, 1800, Michael Kreider (December 20, 1770-May 1, 1851). Buried on the Thomas farm.
5. Veronica Hess (November 5, 1781-April 5, 1855) m. Jacob Snavelly, see above.
6. David Hess (July 9, 1784-March 16, 1873) married 1) March 19, 1807, Magdalena Boyer (Byer) (August 11, 1783-July 29, 1843), 2) Martha (---) (September 22, 1800-January 6, 1879). All buried on Thomas farm.
7. John Hess (September 7, 1785-March 3, 1823) m. Catharine (---). Buried on Thomas farm.
8. Maria Hess (February 17, 1789-February 16, 1848) m. June 12, 1814, Frederick Stauffer.
9. Michael Hess, m. July 3, 1814, Maria Rahvon.
10. Susanna Hess, m. April 5, 1794, David Correl (prob. Charles?)

Michael Hess, father of David above, was born April 22, 1715, to Hans and Magdalena (---) Hess, and married on February 5, 1738, to Barbara (---). He lived in Conestoga Township, where he was listed in 1751 and 1757 assessments and where he made a will dated August 16, 1759, in which he empowered his executors to make equal division of his estate with the "approbation of the majority of the elders





age of about forty-six, he laid his armor by and is buried on his farm on an elevation overlooking the beautiful valley to which God guided him and his descendants.

Hans' gravestone, a rough marker with his name and date, still stand over the grave, one of the oldest marked burial places in Lancaster County.

His will (A-1-111), as translated from German, was written April 10, 1833, and reads in part as follows:

I John Hess writ how my wife Ann has to behave herself in case I should die. She is to keep under her all my Estate so as I leave it and take care of the children so long as she shall remain unmarried or widow But if she might come to marry again then it shall be divided according to Brotherly Order and the Custom of the Country. ...If any discord shall happen between the mother and children the matter shall be examined by settled husband-men of the neighborhood and they shall see where is the fault and they shall decide it in such a manner that the Mother shall not keep too much from the children of what is their due at the proper time or that the children being disobedient may not force the Mother according to their will. Therefore it is my desire that everything might be treated in a Christian order and brotherly counsel...This is what I have set down for the further Conservation of Peace.

His widow was appointed his executor. She died in 1767, aged 79 according to her tombstone next to his. Her will (b-1-522) divided her estate into eleven parts, one each to her children or their survivors.

Children of Hans and Magdalena (---) Hess:

1. Jacob Hess: in 1735 he obtained a patent in Warwick Township, Lancaster County, near Lititz. See Genealogy of the Hess Family (John H. Hess, Lititz, Pa., 1876) and the Mennonite Historical Bulletin, cited for account of his family. The John H. Hess book and other writers have identified the original Hess as Samuel, undoubtedly confusing Hans with his youngest son Samuel in whose name the property was patented.
2. Abraham Hess, yeoman of Lampeter Township, will dated 1797.
3. Christian Hess (d. May 20, 1794) a gunsmith who lived with his sister Veronica. He will (F-1-557) provided 100 pounds to be distributed to the poor and divided his estate among his brothers and sisters or their heirs.
4. John Hess, also of Warwick Township.
5. Michael Hess (April 22, 1715-March 5, 1760) m. Barbara(---) above.
6. Magdalena Hess (March 28, 1717-1784) m. 1) Jacob Stauffer (d. June 1775); 2) James Clingan.
7. Barbara Hess, m. Smauel Byers or Boyer.
8. Elizabeth Hess (October 7, 1725-March 14, 1800) m. Michael Kryter (1710-1788)





of the Menest Congregation in the township of Conestoga." His brother Samuel and brother-in-law Michael Kryder were the executors. (I-1-200). In fulfilling this, they sold a tract of 141  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres on the Swatara Creek in Hanover Township to Abraham Hess on June 20, 1769. His children sold a farm of 115 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres in Conestoga Township to Philip Swartz on April 6, 1776. Swartz married Barbara Hess, Michael's widow, on October 13, 1761. He died in December, 1871, and the following burial account is from the records of Trinity Lutheran Church, Lancaster: "December 15, 1781, on a private cemetery, Philip Schwarz born 1729 in Duwenzimern (?). He died on consumption. ~~xxxxxx~~ He separated himself from us, about 17 years after which he became thoughtful of his wandering, and confessed, with many tears, his unfaithfulness, and died, after having partaken of the Holy Communion, the 13th. Funeral sermon Hebrews 3:12." (The pastor of Trinity was then Gotthilf Heinrich Ernst Muhlenberg). His will named his wife Barbara and step-son Michael Hess, son-in-law Peter Snyder, and servant Jane Good.

Children of Michael Hess and Barbara (---) Hess:

1. John Hess (October 8, 1739-October 7, 1741)
2. Abraham Hess (June 6, 1741-) m. Catharine (---)
3. John Hess (December 2, 1743-) m. September 9, 1866, Ann Mary Heiger. Will dated 1793.
4. David Hess (June 19, 1746-September 25, 1815) See above.
5. Jacob Hess (October 1, 1748)
6. Christian Hess (September 24, 1751)
7. Samuel Hess (June 14, 1753)
8. Barbara Hess (March 5, 1755) married Daniel Keeports (See below)
9. Michael Hess (April 24, 1757-1820) m. Maria Shock (d. June 8, 1822, aged 70).

Hans Hess, father of Michael above, is believed to be the immigrant ancestor. In an article by Ira D. Landis in the Mennonite Historical Bulletin (Scottsdale, Pa., III, 2, June, 1942), the following account of Hans Hess appears:

Hans Hess and his wife Magdalena --- crossed the Atlantic Ocean in 1717. Tradition says that a child died at sea. He first settled just west of his fellow countryman John Kreyter, between Mill Creek and the Conestoga, in Lampeter, where 100 acres were surveyed to him, May 27, 1818. Here he built his humble dwelling, first of tow-cloth, brought from Switzerland, then of hickory and bark, which were so abundant in this wilderness. --- After a few years he moved into Conestoga Township (now Pequea), near the present town of Baumbardner. Here he had 195 acres "in right patented" to his son Samuel, November 26, 1739. He built a home northwest of the present town. When he had established his family in this retreat, 4600 miles from his own birthplace in Switzerland, in 1733 at the





9. Anna Hess (1727) m. Christian Meily or Mylin. He d. 1760. Mannheim Township.
10. Veronica Hess (August 22, 1729-October 17, 1814), a spinster.
11. Samuel Hess (April 9, 1741-August 25, 1788) married Esther Bowman (1734-1802).

For further data on the collateral Hess lines, see the Mennonite Historical Bulletin cited. A genealogy of the Hess family, tracing the large descent of Hans Hess and employing research in Europe on his ancestry would bring to light further valuable facts.

### The Keeports Family

Anna Keeports, who married David Hess, was born October 15, 1751, to Daniel and Anna (Groff)(Kreider), Keeports. His wife was the widow of George Kreider and the mother of Jacob, Micahel and George Kreider to him. Keeports petitioned the Orphans Court on March 3, 1746/7 for the settling of the Kreider estate. He died in the 1780s and his son Daniel and son-in-law David Hess petitioned for the settling of his estate. He lived in Lampeter Township. The name has several variant spellings, chief among them Kinportz.

#### Children of Daniel and Anna (Groff) (Kreider) Keeports:

1. Daniel Keeports, see below.
2. Anna Keeports, October 15, 1751, married David Hess.

-----  
Daniel Keeports, Jr., married 1) Anna Hess (b. March 5, 1755); 2) probably Mrs. John Stetler; and 3) Mrs. Elizabeth Barr Snavelly. He died about 1800 and his son Daniel petitioned for the settling of his estate. Daniel Jr. was executor of the estate of John Stetler, whose wife he is thought to have married. There were no children to his last marriage, but there were to the first marriages.

#### Children of Daniel and Anna (Hess) Keeports:

1. Daniel Keeports III

#### Children of Daniel and [Mrs. ~~Mrs. John~~ John Stetler]:

2. Elizabeth Keeports, married Jacob Thomas
3. Jacob Keeports
4. John Keeports
5. Abraham Keeports.

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